

Appl. No. : 09/231,415
Filed : January 14, 1999

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A purchase request management system, wherein said purchase request management system is remotely managed by a user over a computer network, said purchase request management system comprising:

a buyer-dealer association module configured to assign a purchase request received from a potential buyer to one or more dealers;

a system database comprising a plurality of sets of purchase requests, the purchase requests received from potential buyers and stored in the database, each set of purchase requests associated with one of a plurality of dealers at least some of said purchase requests assigned to an associated dealer by the buyer-dealer association module, each purchase request belonging to at least one set of purchase requests and fewer than all sets of purchase requests; and

a dealer access module purchase request management module configured that to permits each dealer to access and manage only the set of purchase requests associated with the dealer.

27. (Previously presented) The management system as defined in Claim 26, additionally comprising a dealer terminal, said dealer terminal displaying a split screen and the split screen listing the set of purchase requests associated with the dealer on one side and a purchase request detail on the other side.

28. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 27, wherein said list of purchase requests includes an assigned user.

29. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 27, wherein said purchase request details includes a purchase request task list.

30. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 29, wherein said purchase request task list includes an assigned user.

31. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 29, wherein said purchase request task list includes an assigning user.

32. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 26, wherein said user is a sales manager.

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33. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 26, wherein said user is a salesperson.

34. (Currently Amended) A purchase request management system having a system database, said system database including an exclusive database region for each of a plurality of dealers, said system database containing at least one purchase request, wherein at least one user has access to said purchase request in said exclusive database region, said management system comprising:

means for assigning a purchase request received from a potential buyer to one or more dealers such that, for each dealer to which the purchase request is assigned, the assigned purchase request belongs to a set of purchase requests associated with the assigned dealer;

means for storing a plurality of sets of purchase requests received from potential buyers, wherein each set of purchase requests is associated with one of a plurality of dealers and each purchase request belongs to at least one set of purchase requests and fewer than all sets of purchase requests;

means for listing only the set of said purchase requests associated with a dealer;

means for displaying details of the listed set of said purchase requests; and

means for acting on the listed set of said purchase requests, wherein said acting means comprises one or more action response modules, and wherein said listing means, said displaying means, and said acting means permit each dealer to access and manage only the set of purchase requests associated with the dealer.

35. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 34, wherein said means for displaying displays a purchase request list on one side and a purchase request detail on the other side.

36. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 35, wherein said purchase request list includes an assigned user.

37. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 35, wherein said purchase request detail includes a purchase request task list.

38. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 37, wherein said purchase request task list includes an assigned user.

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39. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 37, wherein said purchase request task list includes an assigning user.

40. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 34, wherein said user is a sales manager.

41. (Original Claim 42) The management system as defined in Claim 34, wherein said user is a salesperson.

42-76. (Cancelled)

77. (Previously Presented) The management system of Claim 26, wherein a user remotely accesses the management system.

78. (Currently Amended) The management system of Claim 26, wherein accessing and managing purchase requests as permitted by the ~~purchase request management module~~dealer access module includes storing a status indicator associated with each purchase request.

79. (Previously Presented) The management system of Claim 78, wherein the status indicator is selected from a group including at least quoted, pending, and sold.

80. (Currently Amended) The management system of Claim 26, wherein accessing and managing purchase requests as permitted by the ~~purchase request management module~~dealer access module includes associating a task with a purchase request.

81. (Currently Amended) The management system of Claim 80, wherein accessing and managing purchase requests as permitted by the ~~purchase request management module~~dealer access module includes assigning a task to a user.

82. (Currently Amended) The management system of Claim 26, wherein accessing and managing purchase requests as permitted by the ~~purchase request management module~~dealer access module includes assigning a priority level to a purchase request.

83. (Currently Amended) The management system of Claim 26, wherein each purchase request belongs to only one set of the sets of purchase requests.

84. (Currently Amended) The management system of Claim 26, further comprising a plurality of distinct database regions, wherein each set of the sets of purchase requests is stored in one of the distinct database regions.

85. (Previously Presented) The management system of Claim 84, wherein each database region is associated with one dealer.

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86. (Currently Amended) A purchase request management system remotely accessible by a user comprising:

a buyer-dealer association module configured to assign a purchase request received from a potential buyer to one or more dealers;

a system database comprising a plurality of sets of purchase requests, ~~the purchase requests received from potential buyers and stored in the database,~~ each set of purchase requests associated with one of a plurality of dealers at least some of said purchase requests assigned to an associated dealer by the buyer-association module, each purchase request belonging to at least one set of purchase requests and fewer than all sets of purchase requests;

a plurality of distinct database regions, each database region associated with at least one dealer, wherein, ~~for each dealer, the~~ each set of purchase requests associated with the dealer is stored in ~~the~~ one database region associated with the dealer; and

a ~~purchase request management module~~ dealer access module that permits each dealer to access and manage only the set of purchase requests associated with the dealer, wherein accessing and managing purchase requests as permitted by the ~~purchase request management module~~ dealer access module includes associating a task with a purchase request.

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87. (Currently Amended) A purchase request management system, wherein said purchase request management system is remotely managed by a user over a computer network, said purchase request management system comprising:

a buyer-dealer association module configured to assign a purchase request received from a potential buyer to one or more dealers;

a system database comprising a plurality of sets of purchase requests, ~~the purchase requests received from potential buyers and stored in the database,~~ each set of purchase requests associated with one of a plurality of dealers at least some of said purchase requests assigned to an associated dealer by the buyer-dealer association module, each purchase request belonging to at least one of the sets of purchase requests and fewer than all of the sets of purchase requests; and

~~a purchase request management module~~ dealer access module that permits each dealer to access and manage the set of purchase requests associated with the dealer and does not permit the dealer to access or manage the sets of purchase requests that are not associated with the dealer.

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88. (Currently Amended) A purchase request management system remotely accessible by a user comprising:

a buyer-dealer association module configured to assign a purchase request received from a potential buyer to one or more dealers;

a system database comprising a plurality of sets of purchase requests, ~~the purchase requests received from potential buyers and stored in the database,~~ each set of purchase requests associated with one of a plurality of dealers at least some of said purchase requests assigned to an associated dealer by the buyer-dealer association module, each purchase request belonging to at least one of the sets of purchase requests and fewer than all of the sets of purchase requests;

a plurality of distinct database regions, each database region associated with one dealer, wherein, for each dealer, the ~~each-set of purchase requests associated with the dealer~~ is stored in the one database region associated with the dealer; and

a ~~purchase request management~~dealer access module that permits each dealer to access and manage the set of purchase requests associated with the dealer and does not permit the dealer to access and manage the sets of purchase requests that are not associated with the dealer, wherein accessing and managing the associated set of purchase requests as permitted by the ~~purchase request management~~dealer access module includes associating a task with a purchase request.

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89. (Currently Amended) A purchase request management system, wherein said purchase request management system is remotely managed by a user over a computer network, said purchase request management system comprising:

a buyer-dealer association module configured to assign a purchase request received from a potential buyer to one or more dealers;

a system database comprising a plurality of sets of purchase requests ~~received from potential buyers and stored in the database~~, said purchase requests relating to a category of goods or services, each set of purchase requests associated with one of a plurality of dealers at least some of said purchase requests assigned to an associated dealer by the buyer-dealer association module, all of said plurality of dealers offering goods or services that are within the category of goods or services related to said purchase requests, each purchase request belonging to at least one of the sets of purchase requests and fewer than all of the sets of purchase requests; and

~~a purchase request management~~dealer access module that permits each dealer to access and manage the set of purchase requests associated with the dealer and does not permit the dealer to access and manage the sets of purchase requests that are not associated with the dealer.

90. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 89, wherein the category of goods or services comprises automotive goods or services.

91. (Currently Amended) The purchase request management system of Claim 34, wherein the action response modules comprise a purchase request management module configured to associate a task to a purchase request, determine a purchase request priority, associate a task with a purchase request, and assign a purchase request task to a user.

92. (Currently Amended) The purchase request management system of Claim 34, wherein the action response modules comprise a purchase request listing module configured to list purchase requests according to date, status, and customer name.

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93. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 34, wherein the action response modules comprise a status change module configured to change the status of one or more purchase requests in response to user interaction with the one or more purchase requests.

94. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 26, wherein each of the purchase requests represents a potential buyer's non-binding intent to purchase a good or service.

95. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 34, wherein each of the purchase requests represents a potential buyer's non-binding intent to purchase one or more goods or services.

96. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 86, wherein each of the purchase requests represents a potential buyer's non-binding intent to purchase one or more goods or services.

97. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 87, wherein each of the purchase requests represents a potential buyer's non-binding intent to purchase one or more goods or services.

98. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 88, wherein each of the purchase requests represents a potential buyer's non-binding intent to purchase one or more goods or services.

99. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 89, wherein each of the purchase requests represents a potential buyer's non-binding intent to purchase one or more goods or services.